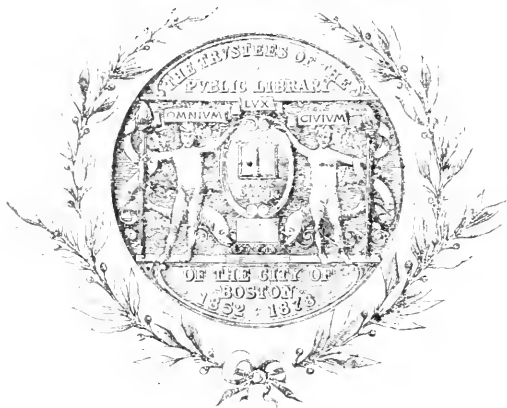


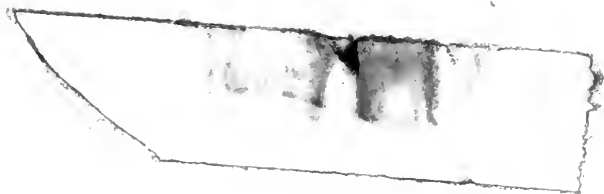
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# The Bromfields.



# THE BROMFIELDS.

BY

DANIEL DENISON SLADE.

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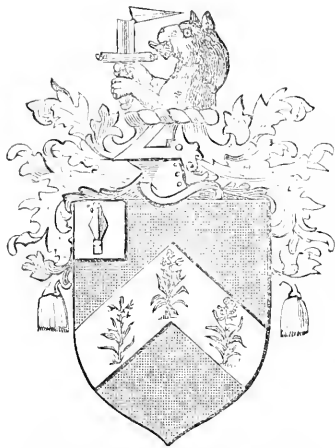
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## THE BROMFIELD FAMILY.



THE name of Bromfield may be traced back to the time of Edward II., and was undoubtedly of Welsh origin. This may be inferred from the following note annexed to "the Bardie Museum, or Relics of the Welsh Bards." From "Llyfr Coch asaph," written about 1315.

"About this time, the British Nobility lived in a princely state, as appears by the rules settled by Leywelyn de Bromfield and his council for the management of his household. He had the following officers—a Steward of his household, Chamberlain, Chaplain, Almoner, Usher of the hall, Gentlemen of the Horse, Butler, Cook, Baker, Doorkeeper of the Chamber, Porter, Groom of the Horse, apparitor, with their assistants. One part

of the Marshall of the Hall's duty, was every day after dinner to deliver with an audible voice, what the expense of the table amounted to & at the same time to admonish to economy. When his Lordship rode out, he was attended by all his officers & by about a dozen Esquires."

The next of the family of whom we have any mention, was William Bromfield:

"William Bromfield Grandfather to Arthur Bromfield of Chancroft in the Countie of Southampton England Esq. came out of Derbyshire, a younger brother but of an ancient family. He married a widow in Norfolke, daughter of the Foremans of Chyme in Surrey who was mother of the maydes to Queene Elizabeth, by whom he had a good estate and was made Lieutent of the Ordinance in the Tower and afterwards purchased the Mannor of Barnes upon Tower hill, which mannor was afterwards leased out for three score yeares by W<sup>m</sup> Bromfield, sonn of the said Will<sup>m</sup> and father of the sayde Arthur Bromfield, he taking a small fine and reserving a less rent for the aforementioned terme of three score years—the saide manner being stated out for soe long a terme, was afterwards sould by W<sup>m</sup> Bromfield eldest sonn of the last mentioned W<sup>m</sup> & brother unto Arthur unto one—Goodman who was Tenn<sup>t</sup> for the aforementioned yeares. This W<sup>m</sup> Bromfield, father of the aforementioned W<sup>m</sup> & Arthur Bromfield, was one of the Gentlemen Pensioners to Queene Elizabeth and had besides the saide Mannor of Barnes an estate of Seaven hundred pounds per annum in Norfolke & Middlesex, which he coule likewise in his life time—he was wounded by a Cannon Boulet *at New haren?* in france & in his return landed by Portsmouth came to Fariham neare Portsmouth & there died. The sayd Arthur Bromfield had three sons, Henry, Quimby<sup>1</sup> & Arthur &

<sup>1</sup> From Miss E. S. Quincy's MSS.—In 1847, when these MSS. were received from Miss Bromfield, of England, the name resembling that of Quincy was observed, but the coincidence that there should have been an ancient relationship between those families seemed

many daughters: his eldest son Henry married Frances the daughter of Thos Kempe of Guine in the New Forest in the countie of Southampton Eng<sup>d</sup> by whom he had five sons and six daughters."

Fortunately we have preserved to us the last will and testament of William Bromfield, as also that of his great-grandson Henry Bromfield, the father of Edward, who emigrated to America. These documents are interesting relics, on account of their antiquity, as well as being the only mementoes of these worthy men. From them we make the following extracts:

MR. WILLIAM BROMFIELD.

Will Octobril 24, Elir, 1582.

*Ex regis Curia. Prerogative Court Extract.*

In the name of God, Amen, I, William Bromfeilde of Mounten Farley in the Countie of Wilshire Esquire, beinge of perfect memorie and sickle of bodie, doe make this my last will & Testam<sup>t</sup> the five and Twentie day of October in the four and twentie yeare of the raigne of our most gracious Lady Queene Elizabeth etc. in manner and forme followinge viz. First of all, I bequeath my soule unto ye Almighty God, my Master & Redeemer and my bodie to be buried w<sup>th</sup> in the Parische Church of Momnton Farley aforesaid. Item, I bequeath unto Katherine my welbeloved wife my Mannor of Barnes w<sup>th</sup>out Algate in the countie of Middx w<sup>th</sup> all manner of Rents profitts and comodities whatsoever thereto belonginge or appertayninge during her naturall life. Uppon condicion that she doth keepe herself a widow. Item, I give unto William Bromfeild, my eldest sonne my mannor of Barnes aforesaid w<sup>th</sup> all rents and comodities thereunto belonginge after the decease of his mother and in the mene time to stand to her liberalitie. Item, I give my sonne Arthure one annuities of six pounce thirteene shillings fourpence yearly duringe his life, to be paid unto him by his Brother William at Michaelmas or th<sup>e</sup> annunciacon of our Lady next after the decease of my said wife. Item, I give unto my sonne Ambrose Bromfeild one annuities of Five pounce yearly. Item, I give and bequeath unto my sonne Garratt Bromfeild one annuities of Five pounce out of ye said Mannor in as ample

too singular to be credited; and as the name was not clearly written, it was supposed to be Quimby. But in Littell's *Living Age* for February, 1856, there appeared the following:

EPITAPH ON A MONUMENT IN TICHFIELD CHURCH, HAMPSHIRE, ENGLAND:

"The Husband speaking trewly of his wife  
Read his losse in her death, her praise in life.  
Here Lucie Quinsie Bromfield buried lies,  
With neighbours and deep weeping hartes sighes, eyes,  
Children eleven, tenne living me she brought  
More kind, trewe chaste, was none indeed, word thought  
House, children, state, by his was rul'd bred, thrives  
One of the best of maides, of women, wives  
Now gone to God, her heart sent long before  
In fasting, prayer faith, hope & alms, deedes, store  
If any faulte she lov'd me too much,  
Ah pardon that, for ther ar too fewe such  
Then reader, if thou not hard hearted be  
Praise God for her, but sigh & praie for me.  
Here by her dead, I dead desire to lie  
Till raised to life, we meet no more to die  
1618."

Thus it appears that the grandmother of Edward Bromfield, who emigrated to America in 1675, was one of the Quincey family.

In looking over Nichols's history of Leicestershire, another notice of a former relationship between these families appeared from an inscription on a monument at Melton, Monbray, to the Hudson family. It is there stated that the wife of Sir Henry Hudson, ob. 1690, was Margaret, daughter of Sir Edward Bromfield, ob. 1653, and that her granddaughter, Jane Quinsie, died at Melton, Monbray, in 1721.

manner as I have given his Brother. And as for my Daughters legacies I desire my well beloved wife to give them a hundred pounce apeece If God send her life to provide the same. Item, I give unto William Hanford, my servant, one annuities of Twentie shillings a yeare duringe his life out of my mannor of Barnes aforesaid and that it shalbe lawfull for him to distrain upon y<sup>e</sup> said mannor for non payment thereof.

In the name of God, Amen. I Henry Bromfield of Chancroft in the Parish of South Stoneham in the county of Southton Esq<sup>r</sup> considering the frailty of this life and how necessary it is for every Christian to be in continuall readinesse for death whensoever the good pleasure of God shall bee to call us out of this vale of teares, doe hereby declare and ordaine my last Will & Testament in manner and forme followinge first, I recommend my soule to God the flather who never forsaketh them that trust in him and to the mercys & meritts of Jesus Christ, the source of his love and my alone Saviour, by whom I stedfastly believe to have the pardon of my sinnes sealed unto my soule and his righteuesnesse imputed to mee. The burial of my Body I leave to the discretion of my Executor, desiring it may be interred with as little expense as may bee. Now bee it known unto all men by these presents that by this my last will & Testament I doe hereby appoint and authorize Thomas Bromfield of New Inn of London, Gent, to bee my full & whole executor of this my last will & Testament whom I hereby empower & inable to sell and dispose of the aforesaid lands & Houses in Southampton for the discharge of my debts and raising portions for my Daughters Mary, Francis Lucy, Amy & Anne. What is or shall be owing me by Bond at present or hereafter either from my sonne Henry Bromfield of Haywood<sup>1</sup> Gent, & what by Bond & article of agreement at his marriage hee is to pay immediately after myne & my wife's decease the money due to be paid upon the said bonds & articles to bee equally distributed among my afore mentioned five Daughters. And I doe further by this my last will and Testament give & dispose to my deare wife, Frances Bromfield all my household goods within my dwelling house at Chancroft desiring that after her decease shee would leave it all entire to her & my Daughters above named. And I likewise moreover bequeath unto her my coach & coach horses, and hereby I give and bequeath my said sonne Thomas Bromfield a Bond owing me by Mr. Francis Kempt<sup>2</sup> of Witham long since

<sup>1</sup> "Haywood house has long been out of the Bromfield family, and at present belongs to Mr. Morant a great landed proprietor in the New-Forest. The house itself is gone to decay, and is occupied or was so till lately by several families of farm laborers. It stands in Dr. Bromfield's native parish of Boldre, & within the parishes of the New-Forest about  $\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 miles from Lymington in Hampshire. \* \* \* As far as Dr. Bromfield knows, his sister and himself are the only surviving members of the family in England. \* \* Dr. B's father, the Rev. John Arnold Bromfield, was a fellow of Keir College, Oxon, and afterwards rector of Market Worton in Suffolk. \* \* \* Dr. B's own family is from the county of Hauts.

\* \* \* "I have heard my aunt Anne Bromfield say that she was taken to see the old mansion when she was a child, it had not been inhabited by our family since the time of our Gr. Grandfather.—Her recollections were only that of a large Hall with a Gallery at one end of it and of some rooms hung with tapestry.—I saw it myself about 15 years ago, part of it had been taken down, and the remainder inhabited by the families of several labourers employed on the property of its owner. It stands amidst forest scenery very near the Church of Boldre where so many of our family lie, and among them our dear Father and Mother.

"The last generation has now completely passed away. My Brother & myself are not only the last of our name, but with one exception (a childless widower much advanced in life) we have not even the most distant Cousin on my Father's side."—Extracts from letters of Dr. Bromfield & his sister to Miss Quincey, July, 1847.

<sup>2</sup> "In the chancel of Boldre church, which is situated in the Eastern Part of the New Forest, and is very ancient, is a mural monument of good sculpture to John Kempe,

deceased, and likewise the summe of twenty pounds current money of England—making and appointing hereby my said some my sole Exceutor of this my last will & Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand & seale the nineteenth day of our Lord God one thousand six hundred eighty & two.

HENRY BROMFIELD.

WILLIAM BROMFIELD, of Wales=KATHERINE ——— of Norfolk.

purchase 1 manor of  
Barnes. Obiit. 1582.

William Bromfield=Name of wife not known.

Gentleman Pensioner to Queen Elizabeth.

William Bromfield.

Arthur Bromfield=Lucie Quincie, obt. 1618.  
obt. 1650.

Henry Bromfield=Frances Kempe.  
obt. 1682.

Henry Bromfield=Mary Mitchell,  
obt. 1696.

Edward Bromfield, who emigrated  
to America, 1675.

The Bromfield arms are of great antiquity, and received an augmentation in the seventh year of Edward VI. in 1553.—“Sable, on a chevron, Silver, three branches of brome vert, budded golde; on a canton of the same, a spere-hedd, azur, the poynte bluddy, in the socket a trancheon of the spere broken; on his healne on a wreth silver and geules a demy Tygre azur, the mayne and the tayle tixed silver langued geules, tusked gold, holdyng in his pawes a sword hilted & pomeled silver porfled gold the blade broken manteled geules, dobled silver, as more plainly apereth depicte in this margent.”

Edward Bromfield, the first representative of the family on this side of the Atlantic, was born at Haywood House, the family seat in the New Forest, in Hampshire, January 10, 1648–9, and was baptized in the church at Chancroft, January 16, following. Of his early life in England we know comparatively little, beyond the fact that he was brought up to mercantile pursuits in London. Born just at the close of the reign of Charles the 1st, he was witness of the rise and fall of Cromwell, and passed his early manhood under Charles the 2d. His naturally pious disposition led him to look with aversion upon the corruption and vices of this monarch's court, neither would it allow him to submit to the restrictions sought to be placed upon the liberty of conscience. His sympathies were consequently with the leading non-conformists, and in their society he found happiness and comfort.

“In his early days he took up his cross and listed in the cause of pure and undefiled religion, joined to the church of the Rev. and famous Mr. Doolittle, about the seventeenth year of his age; entered into a special acquaintance with the renowned Mr. Baxter, Dr. Jacomb, Mr. Thomas Vincent, Mr. James Janeway and other eminent confessors of Christ, closely attended their ministry with great delight, thro’ all the difficulties of the then reigning persecution. Like Moses chusing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. And of those suffering times, of the sweetness of religion in them and of that happy acquaintance he would often speak with a raised pleasure.”

*New England Weekly Journal, June 10, 1734.*

Esq., who died 5th Oct 1652 erected by Henry Bromfield his kinsman. Mr. Kempe was a member for the borough of Lymington in the fifteenth of Charles 1st. His bust in alabaster represents him in the dress of a Cavalier, with sword belt, holding a book in his hand. The Latin Epitaph is long and laudatory. Arms—gules, three garbs, with a bordure en-grailed or.”



As a merchant, his business avocations induced him to engage in a trading voyage to New-England, and this determination was no doubt greatly influenced by religious motives. He arrived in Boston in 1675, a period when the colony was engaged in King Philip's war. Successful as he must have been in his pecuniary affairs, if we may judge from his future career, he found the religion and morals of New-England eminently congenial to his tastes, and he resolved to make Boston his future home. Once established, his fellow citizens were not long in finding out the character of the man who had come among them, and he was soon chosen to fill places of responsibility—as selectman, as representative, justice of the peace and overseer of the poor for many years.

“In May, 1703, he was chosen into the council, and from that time annually elected till May, 1728, when being in the eightieth year of his age, his growing infirmities released him from public business.

“Not long after his coming over, he joined himself to the South Church in this town, and has been therein a distinguished ornament, giving a very bright example of strict piety, of unspotted justice, of extensive charity, of a public spirit, and of steady zeal against every vice, and for good order and the advancement of religion for above fifty years. His heart was especially set for the propagation of the gospel in ignorant places, supporting ministers of low salaries, maintaining charity schools for children, and helping poor and hopeful scholars to academical learning; often laying aside his own affairs, expending largely of his own substance, and exciting others to join with him in these generous services; in which he appeared to take a far greater pleasure than in getting the world.

“For his more undisturbed recess from worldly noise and hurries, he turned the pasture behind his house<sup>1</sup> into a very shady grove, and in the midst he built an oratory; where even in his most flourishing circumstances and heights of business, he would several times a day retire, that he might turn off his eyes from beholding vanity, and keep the world of which he was greatly afraid from taking too much hold of his pious heart. His temper was very active, cheerful, open hearted, free and liberal, his conversation pleasant and instructive, without the least sign of pride or roughness. He made every one always easy about him, unless he had to do with bold transgressors, and then he rather wished their reformation than their punishment. In his family order, uncommonly exact. In the education of his children, exceeding careful; calling them even every evening before him to give them some wise and pious counsels, encourage them in goodness, and expressing the greatest joy and love at the appearance of it in them. He was twice married: (1), about 1678, to Mrs. Elizabeth Brading, by whom he had one child, Elizabeth, who died unmarried in 1717. (2), on June 4, 1683, to Mary Danforth,<sup>2</sup> daughter of the Rev. Mr. Samuel Danforth, the excellent and deceased pastor of the church of Roxbury. By her he had twelve children, one son and two daughters only with their sorrowful mother surviving. So this happy pair were just a closing the 51<sup>st</sup> year from the day of their marriage, and may they all inherit the abundant fruit of his prayers

<sup>1</sup> This house was in Rawson's lane, afterwards named Bromfield's lane, from him, and since Bromfield street. It stood upon the spot which was afterwards occupied by the Indian Queen tavern, a noted stage house, and so named from its sign of an Indian Queen. The Bromfield house lately stood upon the same site.—*Drake's Hist. of Boston.*

At a General Court held in Boston, 16 Feb. 1685-6—The court on the motion of Mr. Edward Bromfield, doe grant him liberty to erect a timber porch to his house not exceeding eight feet wide and tenn foote long.

<sup>2</sup> For Genealogy of the Danforth Family, see *N. E. Hist. and Gen. Register*, vol. vii. p. 321.

& their offspring rise up this their generations in the same exalted spirit of beneficence and piety which has so conspicuously shone in this their exemplary father."—*New-England Weekly Journal*, June 10, 1734.

Mr. Bromfield died in June, 1734, on the Sabbath, in the 86th year of his age. He was entombed in King's Chapel burying ground. The tombstone, still in good preservation, is in the northern side of the inclosure.

Mrs. Bromfield soon followed her husband. Her excellent character is faithfully portrayed in the following extract from the *New-England Weekly Journal*, under date of Oct. 14, 1734.

"On Monday last, died here, Mrs. Mary Bromfield, relict of the late Hon. Edward Bromfield, whom she survived by a few months. She was eldest daughter of the Rev. and learned Mr. Sam<sup>l</sup> Danforth, who for many years was a faithful pastor of the first church in Roxbury, and granddaughter to the famous Mr. Wilson, the first pastor of the old church in Boston:—She was a gentlewoman of excellent natural accomplishments; having a solid judgment, a ready wit, and a most cheerful and engaging temper, which being heightened by reading and conversation, gained her the universal love and esteem of all who had the happiness of an acquaintance with her. In the discharge of relative duties, she had but few her equal and none that exceeded her. She was a most affectionate and obliging wife, and gave a singular instance of conjugal affection in her unwearied attendance upon her dear consort (with whom she had lived more than fifty years), when for many months before he died, he had been confined and sore broken with the infirmities of age. She was likewise a most tender and compassionate parent and mistress, a faithful and constant friend, a kind and courteous neighbor, and very extensive in her charities to the poor. In a word she placed much of her own happiness in the welfare of others, and made it a great part of the business of her life to make all about her easy and happy; and for a crown to all, she was no less exemplary in her piety towards God, for being favored with a most religious education, God was pleased to bless it as a means for her early conversion, and enabled her, by his spirit, to maintain a close walk with him all her days.—She died very much lamented after a short illness of four or five days in the 72<sup>d</sup> year of her age, and was decently interred the last Thursday."

The children of Edward and Mary Bromfield were:—

1. Henry, born July 5, 1684; died July 17, 1684.
2. Edward, born May 7, 1686; died Oct. 25, 1686.
3. Mary, born Aug. 23, 1687; died Sept. 13, 1687.
4. Mary, born June 2, 1689; married June 4, 1724, Thomas Cushing.

Thomas Cushing, the second son of Hon. Thomas Cushing, who was born in Boston, Jan. 30, 1693, graduated at Harvard College in 1711, was a member of the Brattle Street Church in 1713, dismissed to the Old South Church on the erection of the new edifice in 1730—was a Boston representative in 1735, and engaged in mercantile pursuits—was frequently a moderator in town meetings. Mr. Cushing was speaker of the House of Representatives from 1742 to '46. Their children were: Thomas, born 24 March, 1725, who became an active leader in the Revolution. Edward, 27 Nov., 1727. Mary, 6 Oct., 1728. Elizabeth, baptized 14 Oct., 1733. Mr. Cushing died 11 April, 1746. His pastor, Thomas Prince, remarked of Mr. Cushing in the funeral sermon occasioned by his decease—"I found that in a small relaxed & feeble body there dwelt a great, a lively, a strong and well composed soul."

Mrs. Cushing died Oct. 30, 1746, aged 50. The *Boston News Letter* states that she fell down dead in her chamber alone.—*N. E. Hist. and Gen. Register*, Vol. viii. p. 45, 1854.

5. Thomas, born Sept. 2, 1690; died October, 1691.

6. Sarah, born Oct. 11, 1692; married Capt. Isaac Dupee.

"Last Saturday morn departed this life in y<sup>e</sup> 83 year of her age, M<sup>rs</sup>. Sarah Dupee, widow of the late Capt. Isaac Dupee, and daughter to the late Hon<sup>ble</sup> Edward Bromfield, Esq. deceased. She was remarkable for her piety; of an amiable disposition, & an agreeable deportment in life, which endeared her to all her acquaintance. Her remains are to be interred on Thursday next, at 4 o'clock, P. M., at which time the friends of the deceased are desired to attend." (From a Journal of the day.)

7. Frances, born June 8, 1694; married in 1715, Rev. John Webb. Died Sept. 14, 1721—without issue.

"On Friday, April 20, was decently interred the body of that excellent minister of Christ and preacher of his pure gospel, the Rev. Mr. John Webb, senior pastor of the New North Church in this town, who deceased in the evening after the 16th courant, of six days fever, in the 63d year of his age. He was a son of Mr. John Webb, formerly of Braintree, where he was born in August, 1687. Brought up in the Grammar School there, entered Harvard College in 1704, where he was blameless and studious; took his 1st degree in 1708, and his 2d in 1711, about which time he began to preach to very good acceptance. In 1714, he was chosen and ordained the 1st pastor of the said New North Church, where he has been a burning and a shining light ever since, which has greatly increased under his lively ministry, and in whom they have highly rejoiced and been very happy.

"In 1715, he married Frances Bromfield,<sup>1</sup> a daughter of the late Honorable Edward Bromfield, Esq., who died of the small pox in 1721, without offspring."—*Boston Gazette*, May 1, 1750.

8. Edward, born Nov. 5, 1695.

He was an eminent merchant, high in the confidence of his contemporaries. Feb. 21, 1723, he married Abigail Coney, born June 5, 1700, and erected a house in Beacon street, nearly opposite the present Athenaeum, where he resided until his death, in 1756. In 1742, he purchased of Mr. Richard Bill, Spectacle Island in Boston Harbor, for what purpose is only to be conjectured; probably in payment of debt.—Shurtleff's *Topographical Hist. of Boston*.

In 1747, he entertained at his residence the famous missionary to the Indians, David Brainard.—"On Sunday the 19th July, he went to meeting at the Old South—heard Dr. Sewall in the forenoon and Mr. Prince in the afternoon. Sat in Mr. Bromfield's pew, which was the second wall pew on the left from the Milk street entrance."—Drake's *Hist. of Boston*.—From Edwards's *Life of Brainard*.

<sup>1</sup> "Genuine Christianity—or a true Christian both in Life & in Death glorifying the most glorious Lord.—A Sermon on the departure of Mrs. Frances Webb, the virtuous consort of Mr. John Webb (a pastor to one of the churches in Boston), who expired Sept. 14, 1721, in the 28th year of her age." By C. Mather, D.D. and F.R.S. Boston, 1721. 12mo. pp. 20.

This contains nothing of the personal history of Mrs. Webb excepting her religious character, and a note stating that she was a daughter of Edward Bromfield.—*N. E. Hist. and Gen. Register*, vol. x. p. 19, 1865.

Mr. Bromfield was distinguished for frankness of disposition, urbanity of manners, undeviating rectitude, and for great benevolence. His widow continued to reside in his mansion house until 1764, when it was purchased by her son-in-law, Mr. Phillips, and she removed to a house on Beacon Hill (now Bowdoin street). During the siege of Boston, Mrs. Bromfield took refuge in Andover, at the house of Mr. Phillips. She returned home after tranquillity was restored, and died at her residence on Beacon Hill, Boston, in October, 1779, aged 79, a few months before the death of her daughter, Mrs. Phillips.

Mrs. Abigail Bromfield was remarkable for great spirit and animation of character, and retained to advanced age traces of the uncommon personal advantages, for which she was remarkable in her youth. But she never entirely recovered from the loss of her eldest son, Edward Bromfield, and never re-entered the room in her mansion where he died.<sup>1</sup>

The *Boston Gazette* of April 19, 1756, contains the following notice :

“ Boston, April 15, 1756. After several weeks languishment, died on the 10th, and this day was decently interred, Mr. Edward Bromfield, an eminent merchant in this place. His ancestors were among the distinguished worthies of New-England, whose names will appear in characters of honor in the annals of our church and state. The Grace of God took early possession of his heart, and under its happy influence he devoted those years to the service of heaven, which are too generally spent in the vanities of life.

“ The town of Boston, his native place, observed his accomplishments and called him to fill some of their most important places of trust, all which he discharged with great honor to himself and advantage to the publick. In the house of representatives, he appeared the firm uncorrupted patriot, careful to assert the just prerogative of the crown, and to defend the invaluable liberties of the people. He has been constantly chosen for many years, one of the selectmen of the town, and an overseer of the poor, which honorable offices he executed with great fidelity, to universal approbation—attentive to the complaints of the indigent, diligent to maintain the good order and public virtue of the inhabitants. Firmly attached to the religion of Jesus, he received its sublimest mysteries with the humblest reverence, obeyed its precepts with uniform exactness, cherished its ministers with affectionate tenderness, and sought its advancement with unremitting assiduity. Though zealous for the doctrine and constitution of the churches of New-England, yet with a truly catholic charity, he embraced good men of every denomination. Though strict to the highest degree, in his own conduct, he made the most charitable allowance for the infirmities of others. In his domestic relations he was a shining example of every christian virtue. An affectionate husband, a tender father, an indulgent master. His house was a little church, where every thing that had the appearance of vice was resolutely banished, the exercises of devotion were regularly performed, the religion of the Sabbath strictly observed. He took a conscientious care to promote the temporal as well as the spiritual welfare of all committed to his charge. His constitution was naturally tender, the infirmities of his body sometimes clouded the serenity of his mind, and indisposed him for those spiritual joys which many christians of lower attainments happily experience. But under his growing disorders he always maintained a devout and reverential subjection to the Father of Spirits, an entire dependence on the merits of our divine Redeemer, and was above all things solicitous that he might

<sup>1</sup> This account of Mr. and Mrs. B. was dictated by their granddaughter, Mrs. Dowse.

glorify God in life and death. His removal is a great loss to his friends, his family and the public. But to him we have the highest reason to believe—The day of his death was better than the day of his birth.”

From the funeral sermon of his pastor, Rev. Thomas Prince, occasioned by the death of Mr. Bromfield, I make the following extracts:—

“You know he was born of godly parents. His father was one of the most amiable men for sweetness, innocence and pleasaney of temper and conversation—sincerity and openness of heart—beneficence, a public spirit, activity and delight in doing good, as I ever saw. His pious mother being elder daughter to the Reverend and excellent Mr. Danforth, of Roxbury, by a daughter of the Reverend and famous Mr. Wilson, the first minister of Boston. So that by the mother, he descended from two families eminent for piety in our New-England Israel.

“By the lively instructions and examples of his father, mother and mother’s extraordinary pious mother, who all happily lived together, he from his childhood received strong impressions of religion; and by our elderly people, has been observed to have found the Lord, like Obadiah, from his youth. When young he was uncommonly thoughtful and concerned about the affairs of his soul and eternity. His concern has been deep and constant, and often so great, that he was ready to sink into discouragement, and through the afflicting sense of the corruption of his nature, could enjoy but little comfort. . . . He dearly loved the ancient people, principles and ways of New-England; though he was grieved to find some of our forefathers so severe on the Quakers in ancient times, especially in two of the five New-England governments. Excepting these grievous severities, this mistaken zeal in that particular, he admired the fathers of this country as some of the most pious and excellent set of men that were ever formed into a body politick, and he greatly lamented the degeneracy of their successors in the power and practice of Godliness. . . . In his commercial dealings he was fair and upright. In his conversation free, pleasant, open, innocent and friendly, forward to confess his own faults, and when in a free manner he mentioned, the misconduct of others it was clearly without ill-will or gaul, but with fulness of candor to their persons and intentions. . . . He greatly loved the most zealous, searching and awakening ministers; and they were always heartily welcome to his house and table. He steadily kept up religion and good order in his family, both on the sacred Sabbaths and other days. In perfect harmony with his virtuous’ consort, he trained up his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

9. Mary, born 22 March, 1696.

10. Thomas, born 25 July, 1698; died February, 1709.

I have in my possession a copy of the lines written by John Danforth, upon the decease of this son. It is printed upon a sheet of paper with the death figure, skull, crossbones, and hour glass, a tomb, shovel and pick-axe, with mourners following the shrouded coffin; “Remember death” is the superscription. There are thirteen verses.

“Upon the decease of the pious Mr. Thomas Bromfield, aged twelve years, the second son of the Honourable Edward Bromfield, Esq., Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1709–10.

Bright and sweet soul! just long enough in sight  
To charm affection, and attract delight;  
How soon ascended to the Heavenly Sphere!  
So angels quickly vanish, that appear.

His early death, doctrine and use afford,  
And reasons too for turning to the Lord.  
Profit by this! we'll Heavenly Grace adore,  
Although he never preach a sermon more.

Nature and Grace are mourners at this sight,  
But 'tis religion gives to mourn aright.  
Charming the musick in the Heavenly ears,  
While Christ is bottling of your trickling tears."

11. Henry, born 13 April, 1700; died 2 August, 1711.

12. Samuel, born August, 1702.

The children of Edward and Abigail Bromfield were:—

(1) Edward, who was born in Boston, Jan. 30, 1723.

This son, from his excellent character and disposition, gave great promise of future distinction. Unfortunately for the world, his life was short. The following account of him was written by Rev. Thomas Prince, and appeared in the *American Magazine* for December, 1746.

..... "He was the eldest son of Mr. Edward Bromfield, merchant of this town—was born in 1723, entered Harvard College 1738, took his first degree in 1742, his second in 1745, and died at his father's house Aug. 18, last, to the deep reluctance of all who knew him. From his childhood, he was thoughtful, calm, easy, modest, of tender affections, dutiful to his superiors, and kind to all about him. As he grew up these agreeable qualities ripened in him, and he appeared very ingenious, observant, curious, penetrating, especially in the works of Nature, in mechanical contrivances, and manual operations, which increased upon his studying the mathematical sciences, as also in searching into the truths of Divine Revelation, and into the nature of genuine experimental piety.

"His Genius first appeared in the accurate use of his Pen, drawing natural landscapes and images of men and other animals, &c., making himself a master of the famous *Weston's* short hand in such perfection as he was able to take down every word of the Professor's lectures in the college hall, sermons in the pulpit, and testimonies, pleas, &c. in courts of judicature.

"As he grew in years with a clear, sedate, unprejudiced and most easy way of thinking, he greatly improved in knowledge, and therewith a most comely sweetness, prudence, tenderness and modesty graced all his conversation and improvements in the eyes of all about him. As monuments of his extraordinary industry and ingenuity, in two or three minutes view I see he has left in his study (1) maps of the earth in its various projection, drawn with his pen in a most accurate manner, finer than I have ever seen the like from plates of copper. (2) A number of curious dials, made with his own hands, one of which is a triangular Octodecimal, having about its centre eighteen triangular planes, with their hour lines and styles standing on a pedestal though unfinished. (3) A number of optical and other mechanical instruments of his own inventing and making, the designs and uses of which are not yet known. (4) A considerable number of manuscripts of his own writing, containing extracts out of various authors, with his own pious meditations, and self-reflections, though almost all in short hand, with many characters of his own devising and hard to be deciphered. (5) As he was well skilled in music, he for exercise and recreation, with his own hands has made a most accurate organ with two rows of keys and many hundred pipes, his intention being *twelve hundred*, but died before he completed it. The workmanship of the keys and pipes, surprisingly nice and curious, exceeded any thing of the kind, that ever came from England, which

he designed not merely to refresh his spirits, but with the harmony to mix, enliven and regulate his vocal and delightful songs to his Great Creator, Preserver, Benefactor and Redeemer. He thought the author of Nature and Musick, does by his early choristers of the air with which the day spring rises, teach us to awake with them, and begin our morning exercise with grateful hymns of joy and praises to him. And what is surprising was that he had but a few times looked into the inside work of two or three organs which came from *England*. (6) But what I would chiefly write of is—his clear knowledge of the properties of light, his vast improvements in making microscopes most accurately, grinding the finest glasses, and thereby attaining to such wondrous views of the inside frames and works of nature as I am apt to think that some of them at least have never appeared to mortal eye before. He carried his art and the perfection of his instruments to such a degree as to make a great number of surprising discoveries of the various shapes and clusters contained in a variety of exceedingly minute particles of vegetables, insects, &c., as also of the yet smaller clusters which composed the particles of those clusters, &c., that he seemed to be making haste to the sight of the *Minima Naturalia*, or the very minutest and original atoms of material substances. In short he could meet with no curious piece of mechanism, but he could readily see its deficiencies, make one like it, and happily improve. At one time he told me it seemed as if we might magnify almost unboundedly, or as far as the rays of light preserved their properties and could be visible—at another time, that he saw a way of bringing sun-beams in such a manner and number into a room in the coldest day of winter, as to make it as warm as he pleased without any other medium. I earnestly urged him to write down, delineate and publish his discoveries, for the instruction of men and the glory of God, but his excessive modesty hindered him, and now they are gone without recovery.”

An excellent portrait of this young man, probably by Smibert, is still preserved and is now in the possession of Mrs. M. Bromfield Blanchard, of Harvard, Mass. There are also extant several of his drawings executed with the pen.

(2) Abigail, born Jan. 9, 1726; married June 13, 1744, Hon. William Phillips, the 3d son of Rev. Samuel Phillips, settled at Andover, and a descendant of Rev. George Phillips who came out with Gov. Winthrop in 1630, settled at Watertown, and died there July, 1644. Mrs. Phillips died in 1775. Their children were:—1. Abigail, married Josiah Quincy, Jr., and left one child, Hon. Josiah Quincy, mayor of Boston and president of Harvard University. 2. Hannah, married Samuel Shaw, Esq., and died at Dedham, Jan. 24, 1833. 3. Sarah, married Capt. Edward Dowse, and died at Dedham, 1839. 4. William, for many years lieutenant-governor of Massachusetts, married Sept. 13, 1774, Miriam, daughter of Hon. Jonathan Mason, and died May 25, 1827.<sup>1</sup>

(3) Henry, born in Boston, Nov. 12, 1727. Of his boyhood and youth we know nothing beyond the fact that he was fitted for mercantile life, in which he was for many years engaged in his native city, and afterwards in London, in connection with his brother Thomas. He formed an early attachment for Margaret, the daughter of Thomas Fayerweather, Esq., of Boston, and to this lady he was married Sept. 17, 1749. During the year following his marriage, Mr. Bromfield went to England, but returned to Boston after a few months absence. In this city were born to him:—1.

<sup>1</sup> Bridgman's *Memorials of the Dead*—King's Chapel Burying-ground.

Margaret, born Oct. 5, 1750, died 1765. 2. Henry, born Dec. 24, 1751, died in Cheltenham, England, Feb. 5, 1837. 3. Abigail, born April 11, 1753, married D. D. Rogers, 1781, died Oct., 1791. 4. Sarah, born May 1, 1757, married 1786, Dr. E. Pearson, died Feb. 12, 1831. 5. Edward, born Feb. 1, 1760, died in infancy.

Mrs. Bromfield died of small pox, while on a journey, in Brookfield, Mass., and was buried there. The papers of the day thus noticed her death:

"On the 3d instant died at *Brookfield* of the Small Pox, in the 30th Year of her age, Mrs. MARGARET BROMFIELD of this Town—She was riding for her Health, and on her Return home, when she was seized with that distemper, so often fatal in what is called the Natural Way, which at once destroy'd an engaging Form, and cut short a valuable Life.

"The external Advantage of her Person was accompanied with a Sweetness of Temper, and an Assemblage of Virtues, that form'd a distinguish'd and very amiable Character; and all who knew her, partake in the deep Regret which the Loss of this Lady has occasioned to her Family and nearest Friends.

"The Serenity with which she met the Approach of Death, tho' attended with Circumstances peculiarly affecting, was derived from that Piety which she early began to cultivate, and of which she was a fair Example; and the Prospects it afforded her in her last Moments, reconciled her to the Dissolution of every tender Engagement in Life."

—Smitten Friends

*"Are Angels sent on Errands full of Love!*

*For us they languish, and for us they die:*

*And shall they languish, shall they die in vain?"*—YOUNG.

The following is upon her grave-stone:—"Here lie deposited, in hope of rising to a life immortal, the remains of Margaret, the amiable and virtuous consort of Mr. Henry Bromfield, mercht. in Boston. Born March 19, 1732. She died in this town of the small pox."

A portrait of this lady is now in the possession of her granddaughter, Mrs. Blanchard, of Harvard.

Mr. Bromfield married Sept. 25, 1762, a second wife, Hannah Clarke, eldest daughter of Richard Clarke, Esq., of Boston, born Feb. 27, 1724,<sup>e</sup> died Aug., 1785.

Their only child Elizabeth was born Aug. 19, 1763, married D. D. Rogers, Esq., 1776, and died May 5, 1833, having had the following children:<sup>a</sup>  
1. Elizabeth, married J. T. Slade. 2. John. 3. Henry. 4. Hannah, married W. P. Mason, Esq.<sup>e</sup>

The political dissensions which were now agitating the country, and the consequent embarrassments in mercantile affairs, were undoubtedly the chief motives for inducing Mr. Bromfield to seek rural retirement. In selecting the village of Harvard for his future residence, he was probably influenced by the great beauty of its situation, as well as by the peculiar excellence of the mansion,<sup>1</sup> which he purchased April 1, 1765.

<sup>1</sup> This old mansion, so long the abode of refinement and hospitality, was an object of interest to every one who visited the village of Harvard. Its situation amidst avenues of lofty elms, as well as its venerable appearance with gambrel roof and quaint chimneys, were suggestive of true home comforts, suggestions which few modern structures can offer. It was erected in 1733, by the first minister of the town, Rev. John Secombe. Tradition says that his father-in-law, Rev. Will. Williams, of Weston, Mass., offered to furnish as large a house as he would build. Mr. Secombe came from Medford, and was the author of a



The following is an extract of a letter from his brother Thomas Bromfield :

"DEAR BROTHER,

"*London, 2 Nov. 1766.*

\* \* \* \* "I take notice y<sup>t</sup> you are a move<sup>r</sup> your things into the country w<sup>th</sup> a design to move there yourself—I wish you may find it agreeable live<sup>s</sup> there, but I doubt it much. I believe its best to try, & then if you dont find it to be agreeable, pluck up stakes & come over here. As to sister's being any hindrance I believe on y<sup>e</sup> contrary that before she has winter'd and summer'd Harvard she will be willing to go almost any where rather than remain there, but its possible I may be out in my judgment w<sup>th</sup> regard to that matter.

"You'l please to give my kind love & regards to her & tell her y<sup>t</sup> in my opinion, England is far preferable to Harvard, & y<sup>t</sup> she will hear from her friends almost as often."

From the preceding letter, and from one to his father-in-law, Richard Clarke, as well as from certain memoranda in my possession, we learn that Mr. Bromfield moved with his family to Harvard in 1766—spending the winter of 1767 there, altho' he did not permanently reside in the place until ten years later. During this interval he visited England at least twice, once accompanied by his son Henry. His correspondence with members of the family on both sides of the ocean is interesting, relating as it does to the stirring events of the day. Moving to Harvard in March, 1777, the change from the society of friends and relatives to such utter seclusion must have been great indeed. The concluding lines of a letter from his son then in Philadelphia, truthfully foreshadow the life and closing days of the good man, the last as yet far distant. "I had almost forgot that by this time you are retired to the peaceful abodes of Harvard, and instead of the perplexing arrangement of figures and more anxious dependence on floating treasures are now agreeably employed in assigning to each plant its station, and possess present joy in the bud while contemplating the sure prospect of happiness in plenty. May the tranquil scenes which now surround you be an exact emblem of your future days, produced in the summer of life; may you reap largely of the fruits of virtue in its decline to refresh and delight you in the frigid season of hoary age, and be hereafter restored to fresh vigor and glory in an eternal Spring."

The life pursued by Mr. Bromfield at Harvard, was an uneventful one, but interesting to us in every particular, as showing the occupations of a country gentleman in New-England during the last century. In 1776, he had been appointed justice of the peace, an office which he held at intervals for many years. He busied himself in the affairs of his farm, and from an allusion in a letter to his fall from a horse, he undoubtedly indulged himself in the healthful exercise of the saddle. The loss of his wife in 1785—a severe trial at any time—was the more so in his isolated situation, in the midst of a New-England winter. Under date of Dec. 29, 1785, he writes to his brother Thomas—"I am now solus here, except a negro man."

witty poem entitled "Father Abbey's Will," recently republished by Mr. Sibley, the worthy librarian of Harvard University. He left Harvard in 1757. Mr. Bromfield occupied the mansion more than forty years. At his death it passed successively into the possession of his son-in-law, Dr. Pearson; his granddaughter, Mrs. Blanchard, and his grandson, Henry B. Pearson. After battling the storms and tempests of a century and a quarter, it fell a victim to fire, Aug. 5, 1854—and its ruins are still the object of melancholy interest to many who have passed days of happiness beneath its shelter.

1 This was honest, faithful Othello. Every one, man, woman and child in Harvard, and I may say the surrounding country, knew this excellent and devoted servant. Born a slave, he was in the employ of Mr. Bromfield for many years. Several anecdotes are told

The character of Mrs. Bromfield endeared her to every one about her. In a journal of Aug. 22, 1785, appeared the following notice :

“On the 17th instant died, at Harvard, in the County of Worcester, Mrs. *Hannah Bromfield*, consort of *Henry Bromfield*, Esq; of that place:—A Lady whose virtues and accomplishments rendered her an ornament to human nature, and a blessing to her family and friends; uniform in her endeavours to alleviate the distresses, and heighten the enjoyments of life, she was equally amiable and beneficent in every situation; and left the world with serenity, in the joyful hope of that immortal felicity, for which afflictions like those her decease occasions, had a happy tendency to prepare her.”

“ ‘Heaven gives us friends to bless the present scene,  
Resumes them to prepare us for the next :  
All evils *natural*, are *moral* goods,  
All discipline indulgence on the whole.’ ”

In a letter to his son Henry, Feb. 4, 1791, Mr. Bromfield allows us a peep into his domestic life. He writes in the depth of winter—his daughter Elizabeth and friends have just made him a visit of four days, and a great treat this must have been to him in his solitude. “It was a high regale to me.” He speaks of the neighboring clergy as his friends. They were so, and in them he found almost the only ones with whom he could sympathise. They always maintained the highest regard for him throughout his long life.

“If the sleighing shall break up soon, I shall have a hopeful prospect for three months to come.” Whoever has passed a winter and the early spring in one of our country towns, must well know the condition of our roads at that season of the year. Bad enough at the present day with all our improvements in road making, what must they have been eighty years ago! With scarcely any books, except a few standard authors; no news, except that brought by the weekly newspapers, which in all probability came very irregularly during the winter season, owing to the imperfect mail arrangements and the great distance of the post office (this being in a neighboring town), with only occasional letters from dear relatives and friends—no wonder Mr. Bromfield says, “I am thinking to turn mechanic, and add some conveniences to my outbuilding.” During the months of summer he could find abundant and delightful occupation in his garden and fields—and to this he must have looked forward during the inclement season, with much the same feeling as does the captive to his day of deliverance. His daughter, Mrs. Abigail Rogers, had returned from her tour in Europe somewhat improved in health; but was at this time far distant in Virginia.

Under date of Feb. 9, he adds a few lines to the same letter. How vividly from his description can we picture to ourselves the old gentleman sitting by his generous wood fire, all alone in the south-east parlor, writing

of his eccentricities, and of the entire dependence that the master had upon his servant. He died about seven years before Mr. Bromfield. Buried in an obscure corner of the graveyard, his resting-place was neglected, and almost unknown until marked by a neat stone, erected by the late Henry B. Pearson, Esq., with the following inscription upon it :

OTHELLO,  
The faithful friend of  
Henry Bromfield.  
Came from Africa  
About 1760—Died 1813,  
Aged about 72.

to his dear son, by the light of two candles, in their silver candlesticks, nothing to break the death-like silence within, but the ticking of the tall old clock in the corner, a souvenir which he has brought from London—and without, the raging of the elements. “Last evening it came on to rain and continued till noon this day, when it came on a tremendous Snow storm, and now (8 o'clock) blows as if all nature was coming to wreck.” How the old trees bent beneath the blasts, and how the wintry winds howled around the old mansion that night! No matter, he regards the storm as a friend, for he has formed his plans for “slipping down” to the city upon *runners* to visit his dear daughter and friends—much the easiest and most expeditious way of communication for those days. Still the inclemency of the weather that day has deprived him of enjoying a dinner with the high sheriff at Lancaster, and, what would have gratified him still more, of participating in Divine Service in the afternoon, under the ministration of Dr. Parker.

In the autumn of 1791, Mr. Bromfield was again afflicted, by the death of his daughter Mrs. Abigail Rogers.

In one of the Boston papers appeared this notice of Mrs. Rogers:—“Died in town, on Friday evening, deeply lamented by her acquaintance, Mrs. Abigail Rogers, the amiable consort of Mr. D. D. Rogers, merchant, and daughter of Henry Bromfield, Esq. The exemplary patience, resignation and cheerfulness with which she supported a long and very painful illness, demonstrate the importance even to the present life, of that exalted piety, which is founded in a firm belief of the truths of christianity.”

A portrait of this lady, in the possession of H. B. Rogers, Esq., is one of Copley's best efforts.

His son Henry, in a letter to his father from London, Oct. 30, 1802, says: “I participate in the pleasure, with which you relate the circumstances of your farm—a good crop well got in, the finest fruits of the neighbourhood, the cellar stored with vegetables and the barn filled with hay imply an abundance for man and beast, which may well communicate gladness to the heart and praise to that beneficence from whence they proceed. Such circumstances with such sensibilities, combined with the hope of better things to come, is an allotment truly enviable.”

Again, in letters written during the year 1813, he says: “Nov. 5.—The weather lately has been very unpleasant for the ingathering, which should be dry for housing of roots, &c. I am now housing mine, and last evening husked my corn and now making my cyder.” Nov. 17, he says: in a letter to his daughter, Mrs. Rogers—hoping to have seen her at Harvard during the fine weather: “The reverse of weather has taken place, by a severe storm of snow. I have to fear a solitary winter.—I have had thoughts of keeping Thanksgiving with you, but on reflection find I am not provided with a comfortable surtout for severe cold—mine is too thin and old to appear in Boston. At home and on Sundays I wear a cloak<sup>1</sup> over my surtout, which wont do to appear in at the great town. The fireside is most consonant to my age and my feelings, especially in severity of weather. By the late snow I have been able to get home a good pile of dry wood, cut the last

<sup>1</sup> The cloak alluded to was bright scarlet. What a pleasing picture! The old gentleman in scarlet cloak, wig and cocked hat, silk stockings with knee buckles, long staff in hand, accompanied at a respectful distance behind by his faithful negro servant, wending his way on a Sunday morning through the long avenue of elms to the village church.—And such was the deference paid to age, and to christian virtues, that no one left his pew until the old man had passed out. All this too at a period quite advanced into the present century. The cloak and other articles mentioned are still in good preservation.

season, to make us comfortable, but shall find the want of my dear children and friends to converse with. In my situation it makes it very dull."

Mr. Bromfield had little or no connection with politics, or even with the village affairs. He led a life, as we have seen, of almost complete retirement, after the death of his wife and the marriage of his daughters. His son had established himself in England. The neighboring clergy and the relatives and friends who came to visit him in the pleasant season, were the only means of social enjoyment. His health was usually excellent, and it was not until his last short sickness that he was confined to the chamber.—He died at Harvard, Feb. 9, 1820, at the advanced age of 92. A funeral sermon was delivered by Dr. Thayer of Lancaster, entitled "The Good Man." From this we make a few extracts:—"Such was his distrust of himself, so profound his reverence of God and so correct his ideas of the terms upon which an erring mortal may have a title to mercy, that he would have pronounced himself unworthy to be held up to the generations of men as a pattern. Cheerful, ardent, social, sympathetic and trusty, he imperceptibly won the affection, commanded the confidence and invited the familiarity of all who knew him. The intelligent and refined were his early associates. He had within his reach the means of general knowledge. He was conversant with the enlightened of his own country and of other nations. No diversity of taste or fashions in society, and no desire to rank with the unreflecting great, could change or corrupt the disposition and habits of life which happily formed him for domestic scenes. The character of his religion cannot be too highly celebrated. It was formed of such plain practical principles and maxims, as are found in the sermon of the divine Redeemer. It was a religion not of morals merely, but also of deeds. It was a religion unmingled with ostentation, arrogance, and an exclusive spirit. It was alike removed from indifference, apathy and indolence on the one hand, and from intemperate zeal, intolerance and presumptuousness on the other. Of its benign operation we had the best evidence in his temper and life."

An excellent portrait of Mr. Bromfield, by Morse, the telegraph inventor, adorns the parlor of his granddaughter, Mrs. Blanchard, of Harvard.

Mrs. Margaret Bromfield died at Brookfield, May 3, 1761.

Henry, the eldest son of Henry and Margaret Bromfield, accompanied his father to England in 1768, where he entered into mercantile life under the supervision of his uncle Thomas, in London. After a short residence there, he returned to this country and engaged in business with his father in Boston. In the autumn of 1775 he was in Andover, to which place some of the members of the family had temporarily retired. Several letters to his father in Boston, dated at Andover, and Charlestown Ferry, accurately portray the stirring events occurring at this time. During the years 1777 and '78 Mr. Bromfield undertook a journey with a partner in business, Mr. Gibbs, going as far as the Carolinas. In October, 1787, he left the country for England, having just previously made one or more voyages to Europe in business pursuits.

Making London his home, he there married Margaret Letitia Fox. In 1812, however, leaving the metropolis, he retired to Cheltenham, where he passed the remainder of his life. The following extracts from a sermon<sup>1</sup> preached at his death, by his pastor, best portray his character:—

"Our object is neither to conceal defects nor to heighten excellencies,

<sup>1</sup> "The Matured Christian: a Sermon preached in Cheltenham Chapel, on Sunday Morning, February the 19th, 1837, on occasion of the lamented Death of Henry Bromfield, Esq. By the Rev. John Brown, Minister of the above Chapel. Cheltenham: 1837."

but to draw the character of our deceased friend just as it was in truth and reality."

"He had entered upon his eighty-sixth year, in the enjoyment of a much greater degree of bodily health, and mental energy, than is usually experienced at so advanced a period; but it must be remembered that he was active, temperate, and pious. He used the world as not 'abusing it.' He neglected neither the health of his body nor that of his soul; though he preferred the latter to the former. Hence he absented not himself from public worship, either morning or evening; and was as constant in his attendance on the week-day services, as on those of the Sabbath; and that, too, during the whole winter season, when his advanced age might have justified his absence. His old age, like that of the patriarch Abraham, was a *good old age*; that is, a morally good and truly happy old age; not merely living, nor what the epicure and voluptuary would style 'living while we live;' but living as God would have us live—in that rational and lawful enjoyment of the comforts and blessings of this life, which is really beneficial to ourselves and to others, and promotive of his glory."

"Our aged friend was permitted to stand till he had arrived at the richest degree of autumnal maturity, 'like as a shock of corn cometh in, in his season.'"

"His understanding was sound, and his mind had been imbued with scriptural knowledge from early youth; and after his removal from America to London, for the more convenient transaction of his commercial concerns, the means of his spiritual improvement were considerably enlarged."

"About twenty-five years ago he withdrew from his mercantile pursuits in the metropolis, and took up his residence in this town, through the whole of which period he was in communion with us; and very grateful to your minister, was the remark of one of his most intimate friends, that during his continuance at Cheltenham Chapel, he made still further advances in the knowledge and practice of religion."

"Here we must likewise remark, that in addition to the public means of religious instruction, our friend was in the daily perusal of the sacred scriptures, which he accompanied with earnest prayer and devout meditation. Thus he had obtained a clear and comprehensive knowledge of the great truths and doctrines of Christianity, all of which were well arranged in his mind, and laid up in order, so as to be easily recalled by the memory as the occasion might require, whether for instruction, direction, or consolation. On all the essentials of religion, his mind was fully made up, so that he was never in quest of novelty. He had none of that restless Athenian curiosity, which is constantly inquiring after some *new thing*."

"His character for liberality and benevolence is well known; and that he was no bigot, the religious and charitable objects to which his bequests were made, both in the Establishment and out of it, place beyond the possibility of doubt. He was a practical Christian, humbly devoted to the benefit of man, and the glory of God."

Sarah, the second daughter of Henry and Margaret Bromfield, was a person of superior intellect and cultivation, of an extremely sensitive nature, quick perception, great refinement and delicacy of feeling, together with a warm-hearted benevolence. She was a most exemplary Christian.

She was married in October, 1785, to Eliphalet Pearson, LL.D., who was the first preceptor of Phillips Academy in Andover, which office he held eight years, when he was called to Cambridge to assume the professorship of oriental languages and English literature in Harvard University.

By his distinguished learning and ceaseless efforts, Dr. Pearson essentially elevated the standard of education during his connection with the University, where he remained twenty years. He was subsequently professor of sacred literature in the Theological Seminary in Andover. Resigning all public offices, he passed the remainder of his life in quiet domestic enjoyment, for which he was peculiarly fitted by the tenderest sensibility. He was, however, actively interested in the advancement of all educational and christian schemes to the close of his life. He died Sept. 12, 1826. Mrs. Pearson died Feb. 12, 1830.

Their children were:—1. Margaret Bromfield, born Nov. 10, 1787; married May 30, 1825, Rev. I. H. T. Blanchard (H. C. 1817), who was settled as minister in Harvard, Mass., 1823. Ill health compelled him to resign in 1831. Recovering in a measure, he was settled over a small parish in South Natick, Mass., where he remained about five years. Removing to Weymouth, he passed the remainder of his days with his widowed mother. His death occurred April 9, 1845, after a life which exhibited strong fidelity in duty, and great patience in suffering. Mrs. Blanchard still lives in Harvard, beloved and respected by a very large circle of friends. 2. Edward Augustus, born July 4, 1789; died Dec. 14, 1853. 3. Abigail Bromfield, born May 17, 1793; died in infancy. 4. Henry Bromfield, born March 29, 1795; married, 1841, Elizabeth McFarland; died June 29, 1867.

(4) Sarah, born April 21, 1732; married Hon. Jeremiah Powell, of North Yarmouth; died March, 1806, aged 74. The following is from a newspaper of the day:—

“The mild and amiable disposition of Mrs. Powell, endeared her to the whole circle of her acquaintance. Her modest, affectionate and friendly behaviour was uniformly displayed, and the christian graces were always in lively exercise. Her piety was unostentatious, but it was deeply rooted, and brought forth much fruit. She lived by faith, and the hopes and promises of the gospel cheered her to the last moment of her existence and produced a calm but glorious triumph over the *king of terrors*.”

(5) Thomas, born Oct. 30, 1733. Went to England, and was engaged there in mercantile pursuits during a long life. He died May, 1816, a. 83.

(6) Mary, born Oct. 7, 1736; married William Powell, of Boston; died 1786. Their daughter, Anna Dummer, born 1770, married, 1800, Thomas Perkins, and died Sept. 11, 1848, aged 78. Their children were: 1. William Powell. 2. Anna Powell, married Henry Bromfield Rogers (H. C. 1822), Sept. 12, 1832. 3. Miriam, married F. C. Loring.

(7) Elizabeth, born Nov. 5, 1739; died April, 1814, aged 75. “In the character of Miss Bromfield were united the mild virtues of meekness, patience and good will, a disposition to make others happy, and a readiness to acknowledge the kindness of friends. Her tranquil and benevolent life was guided by the rules of the gospel. This was her staff and refuge, and as it afforded support and solace by the way, it rendered death welcome and the prospect beyond infinitely desirable.”

(8) John, born Jan. 6, 1743; married in Newburyport, May 3, 1770, Ann, the second daughter of Robert Roberts, a native of Wales. He died February, 1807. Mrs. Bromfield died Jan. 20, 1828. The second son of this marriage, and the fourth child, was John Bromfield, born in Newburyport, April 11, 1779. He spent his school days chiefly at Dummer Academy, Byfield, and was there fitted for college. Circumstances, however, preventing him from entering the University, he commenced a mercantile apprenticeship, and afterwards sailed as supercargo for several merchants,

making voyages to Europe and to the East Indies. By this means, and by making judicious investments, and practising an exact economy, he was enabled to increase his property to such an extent as to be able to give twenty-five thousand dollars to the Boston Athenæum, an institution which his love for literary pursuits induced him to select, as worthy of his liberality, and at his death he by will distributed one hundred and ten thousand dollars among various public institutions, besides legacies to relatives. He died Dec. 8, 1849. Of his brothers, Edward, born Feb. 5, 1771, was educated at Andover Academy, went on several voyages, and was drowned at sea on his return from Paris, Oct. 16, 1801. Thomas, born Aug. 8, 1784, died in the East Indies, Sept. 18, 1806. His sister, Mrs. Ann Tracy, was a person of superior intellectual powers, and highly cultivated. She died Sept. 9, 1856.



















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